

*Source Reference*  
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5 December 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Subject: Realignment of OSO Security Functions

1. Reference is made to S. O. Directive [redacted] dated 18 July 1947, copy attached, which outlines the duties and responsibilities of the Security Officer OSO. This directive has been carefully reviewed with Messrs. [redacted] and [redacted] of the Office of the Chief Inspection and Security and with [redacted] of this Office. The Directive became operative when the Security Branch of OSO was transferred to I & S in the fall of 1948. We are now in agreement that the responsibilities set forth therein are generally performed by I & S for the entire Agency and that OSO is duplicating staff personnel and physical security responsibilities which I & S could perform.

a. I & S agree that OSO is fully responsible for the physical security of its own installations in the foreign field as well as for the security of its agents, i.e., their loyalty, integrity and reliability on a continuing basis. They take the position, however, that the security of staff personnel either domestic or abroad rests with them, recognizing that in all such cases OSO has a concurrent paramount interest and responsibility stemming from both protective and counter-espionage factors.

b. I & S desires to be advised of security breaches by staff personnel in the foreign field and it was agreed that AOSO would inform them of such cases and indicate the action that had been taken.

2. For the record it is noted that Messrs. [redacted] raised the question of OSO responsibility under Administrative Instruction No. [redacted] dated 6 October 1949, Subject: "Counterespionage Protection and Support", which Staff D is now implementing. Mr. [redacted] suggested that the OSO Security Officer serve as the channel for counterespionage name checks referred to therein. It is believed, however, that responsibility for such checks should rest with Staff D since there are operational factors involved.

3. Aside from routine security duties, the Security Officer OSO spends most of his time in his official capacity as Operational Clearance Officer. After careful review of that function it is believed that it likewise could be better exercised in Staff D by a senior counterespionage officer.

4. Therefore it is recommended:

- a. That the position of Security Officer OSO be abolished and that
- b. [redacted] be rescinded.

5. That the three slots now in OSO be transferred to Staff D to assist in counterespionage name checks.

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- c. That Mr. [REDACTED] be transferred to FBI for overseas assignment and detailed to Staff D temporarily to assist in the establishment of the operational clearance function.
- d. That the Chief, I & S, be requested to assume all staff personnel and domestic physical security responsibility for OSO rendering such reports as may be appropriate to ADBO.
- e. That responsibility for all operational clearances be delegated by ADBO to Staff D.

[REDACTED]  
Executive Officer

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cc: Staff B  
Staff D